

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07601 281222Z
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T AMMAN 07601

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

USUN FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JO, US
SUBJECT: HUSSEIN VISIT

REF: AMMAN 7537

1. WHEN CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT SHARAF GAVE ME HUSSEIN'S
REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT RE INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON
ON OCTOBER 17, I ASKED WHAT WAS THE KING'S INTERPRETATION
OF THE PHRASE "VERY SOON" WHICH APPEARS TWICE AT THE END
OF HIS REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT. SHARAF SAID THE KING WAS
"THINKING ABOUT A TIME AROUND THE END OF THE YEAR." I
HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF REPLY TO KING WITH ROY ATHERTON
AND HE AGREES THAT OUR BEST POSTURE AT THIS TIME IS JUST
TO KEEP THE ISSUE ON ICE FOR A WHILE.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASONS HE MAY HAVE,
HUSSEIN'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PRESIDENT'S INVITATION FOR
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 07601 281222Z

OCTOBER VISIT ULTIMATELY IS UNSATISFACTORY FROM OUR POINT
OF VIEW SINCE IT IS INTIMATELY LINKED TO HIS UNHAPPINESS
OVER CAMP DAVID AND HIS SEARCH FOR A "CONSTRUCTIVE
ALTERNATIVE." UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES OBTAINING HERE,
HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT BE PERCEIVED AT THIS STAGE AS
EXERTING DIRECT, HEAVY PRESSURE ON HUSSEIN (I HAVE MADE
SOME RECOMMENDATIONS SEPARATELY ON HOW BEST TO PLAY THIS

IN SHORT TERM RE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS); NEITHER SHOULD WE BE PERCEIVED AS OVEREAGERLY PURSUING HIM. YOUR VISIT AND ROY ATHERTON'S FOLLOW-UP CERTAINLY SUFFICE FOR THE TIME BEING TO INDICATE OUR RECOGNITION OF JORDAN--AND HUSSEIN'S --ROLE IN POST-CAMP DAVID SUMMIT AND WHY WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT IN JORDAN'S INTEREST TO JOIN NEGOTIATIONS. HUSSEIN IN ANY EVENT CLEARLY FEELS UNDER PRESSURE INHERENT IN SITUATION CREATED BY CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS.

3. IN SUM, SOME "BENIGN NEGLECT" RE REPLY ON VISIT IS CALLED FOR, ALTHOUGH FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WE PROBABLY SHOULD BE BLOCKING OUT TIME TENTATIVELY FOR EARLY DECEMBER OR FOR EARLY JANUARY AFTER CONGRESS CONVENES. BY THAT TIME, SIGNING OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY IN PARTICULAR WILL HAVE INTRODUCED DRAMATIC NEW REALITY INTO AREA AND HUSSEIN'S SEARCH FOR A "CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE" HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE COME A CROPPER ON BASIC DIVISIONS IN ARAB WORLD.

4. IN SHORT RUN, TODAY'S KNESSET VOTE, BOUTROS GHALI'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF EGYPTIAN DESIRE TO SIGN PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL BY NOVEMBER 19, AND DRAMATIC REPORTED RECENT STRENGTHENING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION AT HOME WILL HAVE IMPACT HERE. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, POSTURE OF "CALCULATED DELAY" RE REPLY ON VISIT MIGHT HELP RE-FOCUS MORE OF HUSSEIN'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM HIS SENSE OF DEEP PERSONAL HURT AND TOWARDS THE MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS INHERENT IN SECRET

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 07601 281222Z

CONTINUATION OF TRADITIONALLY STRONG U.S.-JORDAN RELATIONSHIP. VELIOTES.

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